

**LEGISLATIVE SERVICES AGENCY  
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**FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

**LS 6817**

**BILL NUMBER:** HB 1615

**NOTE PREPARED:** Dec 28, 2002

**BILL AMENDED:**

**SUBJECT:** Alcoholic Beverage Signs.

**FIRST AUTHOR:** Rep. Whetstone

**FIRST SPONSOR:**

**BILL STATUS:** As Introduced

**FUNDS AFFECTED:** ☒ **GENERAL**  
☒ **DEDICATED**  
☐ **FEDERAL**

**IMPACT:** State & Local

**Summary of Legislation:** The bill eliminates the prohibition against: (1) a primary source of supply or wholesaler of alcoholic beverages selling or giving an illuminated advertising sign to a retail permittee or dealer permittee; and (2) a retail or dealer permittee being the recipient of an illuminated advertising sign.

**Effective Date:** July 1, 2003.

**Explanation of State Expenditures:** Currently, it is a Class B misdemeanor for a primary supplier or a wholesaler to sell or give an illuminated advertising sign to a retailer or dealer or for a retailer or dealer to receive the sign. The bill would eliminate these provisions. If fewer court cases occur and fewer fines are collected, revenue to both the Common School Fund and the state General Fund would decrease. The maximum fine for a Class B misdemeanor is \$1,000. Criminal fines are deposited in the Common School Fund. If the case is filed in a circuit, superior, county, or municipal court (courts of record), 70% of the \$120 court fee that is assessed and collected when a guilty verdict is entered would be deposited in the state General Fund. If the case is filed in a city or town court, 55% of the fee would be deposited in the state General Fund.

**Explanation of Local Expenditures:** A Class B misdemeanor is punishable by up to 180 days in jail. If fewer offenders are sentenced to a term of incarceration, county costs for incarceration would decrease. The average daily cost to incarcerate a prisoner in a county jail is approximately \$44.

**Explanation of Local Revenues:** If fewer court actions occur, local governments would receive less court fee revenue.

**State Agencies Affected:** Alcohol and Tobacco Commission.

**Local Agencies Affected:** Trial courts, local law enforcement agencies.

**Information Sources:**

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